

CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT)

Project Review Committee
Wednesday, October 8, 2003
Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 NW 1st Street, 18 Floor 18-4
3:00 p.m.

Summary of Minutes

CITT MEMBERS:

LtCol Antonio Colmenares, Chairman
Marc Buoniconti
John Cosgrove
Franklin Kelly
Thamara Labrousse
Miles Moss
James Reeder
Theodore Wilde

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Bruce Libhaber, Assistant County Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Carlos Bonzon, County Manager's Office
Peter Evans, Metro Aqua Cats
George McHamon, Metro Aqua Cats
Pepe Valdes, CITT
Jose Galan, Public Works Department
Ari Rivera, Public Works Department
Dan Ricker, Watchdog Report
Roosevelt Bradley, MDT
Patty David, CITT
Caroline Thompson, Citizen
Jack Furney, CITT
Joanna Santiago, CITT
Marlene Amaro, CITT
Alina Philipp, CITT
Ramona Phillips, Phillips Consulting
David Failkoff, MDT
Bob Pearsall, MDT
Clinton Forbes, MDT
Adrian Jones, MDT
Patrice Rosemond, CITT
Daniel Alfonso, MDT
Hannie Woodson, MDT

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Brown, MDT

Steven Kraycar, Washington Group International

Aurelio Rodriquez, MDT

George Navarrete, MDT

Philips Adams, Primus Transportation, Inc.

Norbert Seals, Primus Transportation, Inc.

Aurelia Vasquez, CITT

Al Maloof, GJB

ROLL CALL

With a quorum being present, LtCol Colmenares, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

LtCol Colmenares introduced Alberto Delgado, Director Public Works Department for the City of Coral Gables. Mr. Delgado had made a presentation at PRC meeting, September 24, 2003 and made some comments.

Mr. Delgado said it was brought to his attention that during his presentation at the PRC meeting, September 24, 2003 he used an inappropriate choice of words when he referred to the lower-income residents of Coral Gables as “low class”. He apologized and stated that it was not his intention to offend anyone and hopes that his apology is accepted.

LtCol Colmenares introduced and welcomed Franklin Kelly who was appointed by Commissioner Betty Ferguson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 17, 2003

LtCol Colmenares requested a motion to approve the September 17, 2003 minutes. Mr. Reeder moved approval, seconded by Ms. Labrousse and carried without dissent.

CITIZENS' REMARKS

None

COMMITTEE MEMBER REMARKS

None

PRESENTATIONS

Metro Aqua Cats

Peter Evans, Vice-President & General Manager of Metro Aqua Cats, provided a power-point presentation proposal for the introduction of a fast ferry rapid mass transit service using Biscayne Bay (copy of the proposal was distributed). He stated that the high-speed ferry has been operated in congested harbors around the world for over 35 years, such as San Francisco, Seattle, New York Harbor, and Boston. The Metro Aqua Cats will compliment the MDT service adding much needed rapid mass transit alternatives to service Miami-Dade County residents. The total cost of the proposal is approximately \$150,000,000.00.

LtCol Colmenares opened the floor to the members to ask any questions. The members asked if the proposal has been approved by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); has MPO approved the proposal; how much if any financial assistance being requested; how much money has Mr. Evans invested, does it have citizen support. Mr. Evans responded that he has made two presentations to the MPO, but does not know the process for getting support and funding for his project. They have not had any public meetings. The total investment has been approximately \$150,000.00. Metro Aqua Cats would like to negotiate with Miami-Dade for financial support.

Mr. Moss stated that the CITT could not fund new projects without implementing what was promised in the People's Transportation Plan. Furthermore, the Trust needs to review the financial analysis before making any commitments. Mr. Bonzon said a study needs to be conducted to analyze the proposal being presented and then the MPO needs to make a recommendation.

Mr. Moss made the following motion:

Since the concept of high-speed ferry service along Biscayne Bay can offer substantial improvements providing an alternate transportation mode, therefore, the CITT requests that a study be conducted as part of the Urban Planning Work Program (UPWP) and when the study is completed, that this item be further considered by the CITT for funding.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Reeder, and carried without dissent.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Jose Galan, Assistant Director Public Works Department, introduced Ari Rivera, Director Public Works Department who briefly commented that he is committed to working with the CITT members in implementing the People's Transportation Plan.

Mr. Galan distributed and discussed a sample of a two-year plan. The two-year plan includes a description of the Major Highway Projects, Board of County Commissioners Requests, and Neighborhood Improvements with a total cost. The ordinance specifies the BCC requests and the Major Highway Projects, which do not need CITT approval. However, the Trust will need to approve the contracts and to date there are 15 contracts, 5 change orders, and 2 Joint Participation Agreements (JPA).

Mr. Cosgrove asked if the CITT needs to review and approve change orders, and Joint Participating Agreements. Mr. Libhaber responded that any contracts, change orders and JPA that are utilizing surtax proceeds needs to be reviewed by the BCC and forwarded to the CITT for approval.

Mr. Cosgrove stated that at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting it was requested to Dr. Bonzon to change the order in which contracts are brought to the CITT for approval. It was suggested that contracts that need CITT approval will be reviewed in

conjunction with the BCC Transportation Committee meeting, this process will allow for the CITT members to voice any concerns or comments before it is approved by the BCC. In addition, a summary should also be attached that includes if the projects are included in the PTP, and how much funding is requested, what are the matching funds, and a staff analysis.

LtCol Colmenares suggested using the same format that the City of Coral Gables presented.

Mr. Galan noted that the format includes a summary attached to the plan, a cover memo that will include a recommendation, and background information.

Mr. Moss asked if PWD could provide a 10-year plan. Mr. Galan responded that it is under review and once it is completed will be provided to the members.

Mr. Wilde asked how were the figures in the PTP Exhibit 1 obtained and are they going to be included in the pro forma. Any projects beyond the 10 years would be considered new projects, such as Metro Aqua Cats and will need CITT approval. Mr. Galan stated that the allocation of \$470 million for Major Highway Projects and Neighborhood Improvements Projects is not sufficient and will take longer than 10 years. There are more projects than there is money allocated.

Mr. Buoniconti mentioned that he and Mr. Wilde had prepared and distributed a checklist for the review of contracts for consideration at the appropriate time.

ACTION ITEMS

Professional Service Agreement Washington Infrastructure Services, Inc.

Mr. Bradley provided the committee with an overview of the contract. The contract is to provide Engineering Services for the Metrorail and Phase One Metromover Mid-Life Vehicle Fleet Overhaul Modernization Project. The Board of County Commissioners has approved the contract and is presented to the Committee for approval and then forwarded to the full CITT for final approval.

LtCol Colmenares questioned why MDT in-house engineers are not performing the work. Mr. Bradley responded that the work needed is very technical and there are only a few experts in the field that can provide the work. Furthermore, MDT does not need that type of expertise year-round, only every 15 –20 years.

Ms. Labrousse stated in order for the CITT to carry out its responsibility of oversight a system needs to be developed to determine how contracts will be processed and approved by the CITT. Until the committee establishes a process the committee will have lengthy discussions and confusion.

Mr. Buoniconti stated that he agrees that a set of criteria needs to be established to process contracts and if the criteria are not met the contracts will be rejected.

Mr. Cosgrove stated that he has asked Dr. Bonzon to develop a format and a process to review the contracts, which will also be included in the Bylaws.

Mr. Buoniconti asked Mr. Libhaber if the CITT is held accountable in the contract. Mr. Libhaber responded that the contract is between Miami-Dade County and the Washington Group since the CITT was not created when the contract was negotiated it was not included. However, a provision indemnifying the members of the CITT will be added to future contracts.

Mr. Wilde stated that discussions should take place with the County Manager regarding the Maintenance of Effort because there are no funds for future maintenance of the vehicles once they have been rehabbed. Mr. Bradley stated that the cars will last for 20 years and they only need a one-time rehab.

Mr. Reeder made a motion:

To forward to the CITT with a favorable recommendation, the Washington Infrastructure Group contract as presented, seconded by Mr. Moss, and carried without dissent.

Mr. Wilde made a motion:

To approve that the Project Review Committee not approve any other contracts until a process has been established that determines what are the specific CITT responsibilities in assessing contracts, seconded by Ms. Labrousse and carried without dissent.

NEW BUSINESS

Bus Service Improvements Not Included In the PTP

LtCol Colmenares deferred the item for the next scheduled PRC meeting, November 12, 2003.

Mr. Buoniconti made a motion:

To approve that the CITT should not approve any other contracts until the 30-year financial plan has been reviewed, seconded by Mr. Reeder and carried without dissent.

Future Standing Committee Meetings

The members agreed the first Wednesday of each month.

OLD BUSINESS

None

CLOSING REMARKS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion the Project Review Committee meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

***“Minutes Are In Summary Form”
For Verbatim Transcriptions Of This Meeting Please Request Copies Of the Tape
From CITT Office At 305-375-3481***